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Interim superintendent named for Columbus school system
COLUMBUS, Miss. (AP) _ A New Mexico educator has been hired as interim superintendent of the Columbus Municipal School District.
Lester R. Beason, 62, currently principal of the Academy for Technology and the Classics in Santa Fe, will take the helm at the Mississippi district within a month to six weeks. His interim term will extend through June 30, 2004.
``The decision to come to Columbus was an easy one,'' Beason said. ``The school system has a great reputation, I was very impressed with the personnel and some of the gains they had made with student achievement.''
Beason said he is interested in serving as full-time superintendent once the interim period ends.
Beason received his doctorate at the University of Southern Mississippi in Hattiesburg and served as superintendent of schools in Greenwood.
The Columbus School Board announced the hiring Monday.
The board said Beason will be paid \$110,000 a year.
Beason will succeed former superintendent Therrell Myers, who resigned July 1 amid criticism and disagreements over the location for a new elementary school.